



SLOC Spotlight

SCHENECTADY LIGHT OPERA CO. NEWSLETTER • VOL. 35-7

MAY 2002

Breast Cancer Benefit Concert Rounds Out the Diamond Anniversary Season

Producers Melissa Lacijan and Tom Heckert and Director Laurie Larson have been hard at work gathering acts for *Preludes, Pleasures and Portraits*, a benefit concert for Breast Cancer Research. SLOC was approached by Laurie to help produce this venture as a tribute to Paula Selkis, who recently passed away from breast cancer. Many of you may know Erinn Selkis, Paula's daughter, who has performed in many of our recent productions. Paula could always be found ushering, tending bar, sewing



Erinn Selkis, Laurie Larson, and Patti Mullin starting to organize the acts for the Breast Cancer Research Benefit Concert.

costumes or coordinating publicity during these productions.

All proceeds from the concert will be donated to the Breast Cancer Research Foundation. A variety of acts was assembled from the auditions. The production team is busy assembling the performers into the two act concert. Performers selected include: "The Gypsy Dervishes", a mystical healing dance duo, "Taptations", an adult tap dancing troupe, our very own Gioia Octaviano with a recitation of a two poems, and many of your favorite SLOC vocal performers. Come join us for an evening of song, dance, and fun celebrating the lives and accomplishments of women. The performances start at 8:00 PM on May 31st and June 1st, 2002. Tickets are \$15.00 (General Admission), available by calling 885-6510 or at the door on the night of the performances. Mark your calendars now and plan to join us for this event!



Auditions for *Company*, the first show of SLOC's 76th season, are scheduled for **June 13 and 14** at the Opera House. Sign-ins will begin at 7:00 PM and auditions will start at 7:30. Set in New York, *Company* tells the story of five couples and their mutual friend, Robert, who is turning 35 at the beginning of the show. He appears to have everything: looks, charm, and humor. Nevertheless, he is still single. Robert watches and learns from the various couples and experiences the wonders and pitfalls of relationships.

Director/Choreographer Thomas Dalton Bambury and Musical Director Nate Buccieri are looking to cast the following roles:

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7 pm, Tuesday, June 4**

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✓ Check out our Website at <http://www.sloctheater.com>



President's Part — by Melissa Lacijan

Damn Yankees Ends

Diamond Anniversary Season

Damn Yankees proved to be a rousing conclusion to SLOC's 75th Anniversary season. Theater fans and sports enthusiasts alike were delighted by this spirited production. I spoke with Schenectady City Councilman Ed Kosiur opening week, and he couldn't wait to come see the show and toss out the first ball. He made a cameo appearance in *Ruthless* in March and apparently has been bitten by the "bug"! I want to congratulate Debbie May and her entire staff and cast for a stellar production!

SLOC is Honored with a City Resolution

Thanks to Tom Heckert's inquiry and Ed Kosiur's enthusiasm, SLOC has been presented with a resolution by the City of Schenectady in honor of our 75th Anniversary. We received the recognition at the City Council meeting on May 13th. I was there to accept the honor, and a small group of singers came with me to lead the Council in the singing of the National Anthem. The meeting was broadcast on Channel 16, and we were given the opportunity to promote the upcoming Breast Cancer benefit, as well as announce next season. Thanks to Richard Gatta, Ed Graham, Thom Gonyeau, Tom Heckert, Joan Horgan and Michelle Sausa-Gatta for representing the talent of the SLOC membership!

Remember to Vote

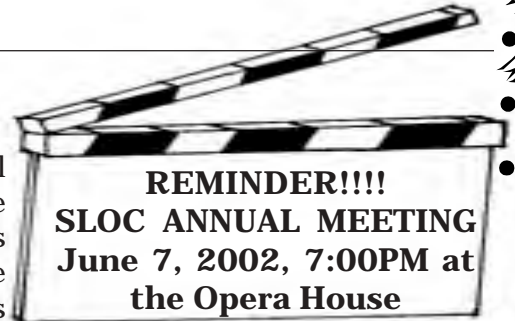
I want to encourage all voting members to participate in the election of Board members this year. Please take the time to read the bios of the nominees and cast your votes in person or via absentee ballot. I have been a Board member in the past, but it wasn't until I served as President this year that I realized how important it is to have a strong, involved Board at the helm of this company. I was continually inspired by the show of initiative and creativity by this year's members, and was proud to have been a part of so enthusiastic a group.

My Term as President

As most people know, I am expecting my second child in August, and feel it is important to my family that I step down as President in June. I find it hard to believe a year has passed so quickly, and while I look forward to the new adventures ahead of me, I will certainly miss working with the Board next year on what looks to be another fantastic season. Thanks to all who have helped me this season, and to those who will continue to support SLOC in 2002-03.

Diamond Pendant Winner Announced

Congratulations to Robert Bain, winner of the diamond pendant raffle. His daughter, Natalie Bain, was in last season's production of *Big River*.



Come hear the financial summary and accomplishments of the Diamond Anniversary Season. Elections will be held for the board vacancies. Come help plan the future of the company! Refreshments will be served after the meeting.

If you are unable to attend the meeting on June 7th, you may still vote in the election for the Board of Directors. An absentee ballot may be obtained by calling Melinda Zarnoch at 382-8497. All absentee ballots must be received by the secretary prior to the beginning of the annual meeting.

SLOC Spotlight

SLOC Spotlight is a newsletter of the Schenectady Light Opera Company, P. O. Box 1006, Schenectady, NY 12301. SLOC is a community volunteer musical and theatre arts incorporated, nonprofit organization. Governed by a Board of Directors elected by the membership, SLOC's purpose is to foster light opera and related arts for the people in and around Schenectady County, NY.

Newsletter Staff: Jill Coloney, Tom Heckert, Jackie Mosher, and Greg Rucinski.

Subscription Rates: \$5 per year, check payable to SLOC. Send subscription inquiries and address changes to the address listed above.

OPERA HOUSE Phone: 393-5732

DEADLINE for submissions to **Vol. 36 Issue No. 1** of the SLOC SPOTLIGHT is August 12, 2002. **Issue No. 1** will be mailed by August 29, 2002.

Please submit your articles to Jill Coloney at jac12661@aol.com or 92 Cooks Court, Waterford, NY 12188. If you would like help with your article, please feel free to contact any of the newsletter staff.

**Subscribe now and get the best seats in the house!
Its a great deal! Four shows for the price three!
See form on pages 5 and 6.**

Company Auditions, Cont'd...

- **ROBERT**- Baritone, lead role, 35 year old, attractive, charming, funny bachelor; will cast 30-45 yrs old
- ("Being Alive")
- **AMY**- Alto, mildly crazy, paranoid, neurotic; about to marry Paul; will cast 25-40 yrs old (Getting Married Today)
- **PAUL**- Tenor, stable man, Amy's best friend; will cast 25-40 yrs old
- **JOANNE**-Alto, brash and sassy, abrasive, likes gossip; will cast 40-60 yrs old ("Ladies Who Lunch")
- **LARRY**- Tenor, stoic man, only person who can appreciate Joanne; will cast 40-60 yrs old
- **SARAH**- Alto, an over-eater who is married to Harry, karate fan; will cast 30-45 yrs old
- **HARRY**- Baritone, competitive, active, a recovering alcoholic; will cast 30-45 yrs old
- **SUSAN**- Mezzo, pretty, Southern woman, dependent on husband Peter, even though they have decided to divorce; will cast 25-35 yrs old
- **PETER**- Baritone, good looking, Ivy League type; will cast 25-35 yrs old
- **JENNY**- Soprano, conservative, uninspiring, married to David; will cast 30-45 yrs old

- **DAVID**- Tenor, traditional, laid-back husband of Jenny; will cast 30-45 yrs old
- **MARTA**-Mezzo, one of Robert's girlfriends, intelligent, comedic, and lives life on the edge; will cast 25-35 yrs old ("Another Hundred People")
- **KATHY**-Mezzo, girlfriend of Robert, sweet, wants husband and family; **MUST** be a good dancer as she has a large dance solo; will cast 25-40 yrs old
- **April**-Mezzo, girlfriend of Robert, airheaded airline stewardess; will cast 25-35 yrs old ("Barcelona")

Those cast will also, at times, make up the 'Vocal Majority', which appears offstage during segments of the show.

Auditioners should prepare 16 bars of music, not necessarily from the show. An accompanist will be provided and there will be a brief dance audition. For any questions, call Director Thomas Dalton Bambury at 436-8295. To help with the show, please call producers Jodi Gilman (869-4074) or Thelma Zeh (374-2407).

Watch for the redesigned Spotlight coming this fall!

DETACH FORM AT FOLD AND MAIL.



SLOC's 2002-2003 MUSICAL THEATER
Season
Ticket Order/Contribution Form

Complete BOTH sides.

A

VISA/MasterCard accepted. DATE _____

Name (print in ink or type) _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ NY 9-digit ZIP _____

Telephone # (day) _____ (evening) _____

SEATING Preference: Front _____ Middle _____ Rear _____

ARE YOU a GE employee, or GE retiree? Yes No

If you are, contributions of \$25 or higher are eligible to be matched by GE's "More Gifts/More Givers" program. Please write "Eligible for GE Match" on your check and call your gift in to the GE Foundation at 1-800-462-8244. SLOC's zip code is 12301.



Become a BENEFACTOR!

We DEPEND on donations from our community.
PLEASE GIVE during our 76th year.

Benefits: Priority seating, subscription to SLOC newsletters, listing in all our playbills, and an invitation to our opening night cast and staff parties.

I enclose a tax-deductible contribution for SLOC's 2002-2003 Season:

- STAR (\$250 or more)
- ANGEL (\$100-\$249)
- SPONSOR (\$60-\$99)
- PATRON (\$40-\$59, Couple)
- PATRON (\$25-\$39, Individual/Single)

List my/our name in SLOC PLAYBILLS as:

Visit SLOC's Web Site at <http://www.slocheater.com>

A SEASON SUBSCRIPTION makes a great gift for family members, friends and work associates to enjoy all year!



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

*Preludes, Pleasures, and Portraits:
A Benefit Concert for
Breast Cancer Research*

May 31 and June 1.
Friday and Saturday @ 8:00PM
(See Feature article on page 1)

For Information: 885-6510
All seats - \$15
General Admission



DETACH FORM AT FOLD AND MAIL.

SLOC's 2002-2003 Season **TICKET Order Form** **B**

1 Below, CIRCLE the DATES you wish to attend the performances.

SLOC's 2002-03 Musical Theater Season Schenectady, NY (518-393-5732)	Thurs. 8 pm	Fri. 8 pm	Sat. 8 pm	Sun. 2 pm
COMPANY	October	18	19	20
	24	25	26	27
FUNNY THING...	December	6	7	8
WAY TO FORUM		12	13	14
		15	16	15
ZOMBIE PROM	March	7	8	9
		13	14	15
		16	15	16
CITY OF ANGELS	May	2	3	4
		8	9	10
		11	10	11

ALL SHOWS AT OPERA HOUSE • 826 State Street • Schenectady, New York

2 **SEASON SUBSCRIPTION: FOUR shows for the price of 3**
Send me _____ ADULT Subscriptions, **\$54 each = \$** _____
(under age 13) _____ CHILD Subscriptions, **\$27 each = \$** _____

3 SINGLE Ticket Order: CIRCLE SHOW DATES in Box 1 above.

	ADULT	CHILD under 13	TOTAL
COMPANY # Tickets _____ x \$18	_____ x \$9 =	_____ x \$9 =	\$ _____
FUNNY THING _____ x \$18	_____ x \$9 =	_____ x \$9 =	\$ _____
ZOMBIE PROM _____ x \$18	_____ x \$9 =	_____ x \$9 =	\$ _____
CITY OF ANGELS _____ x \$18	_____ x \$9 =	_____ x \$9 =	\$ _____

4 **BENEFACTOR Contribution** (see Play a Part/Side A) . . . \$ _____

5 Add POSTAGE and PROCESSING FEE \$ **3.00**

6 **PAYMENT TOTAL** \$ _____

CHECK enclosed, payable to **SLOC, or charge to . . .**

MasterCard VISA

Account # _____ Expires _____

Signature _____

Tickets will be mailed by October 7, 2002. Sorry, no refunds

7 MAIL Ticket Order/Contribution Form and payment to:
SLOC TICKETS • P. O. BOX 1006 • SCHENECTADY, NY 12301-1006.

Candidates for Election to the Board of Directors

Vince Bonafede - I have been a company member since 1973. I have served as musical director for over 20 shows, the most recent being this season's *The Melody Lingers On*. The Board of Directors should be comprised of people representing all areas relating to SLOC production and administrative functions. As a musician I feel that I can lend my musical experience and expertise to keep other Board members informed on how decisions made by the board effect the musicians and other musical aspects of the company.

Jackie Mosher - My first introduction to SLOC was in the 1970's as an enthusiastic audience member. Shortly thereafter I became Assistant to the Director for Proctor's Theatre where I had the pleasure of working with many talented people from SLOC when they used the theater for several of their performances. As producer of all of Proctor's Christmas Shows my goal (in addition to putting on the best show possible!) was to provide a showcase to local performers of all ages. Again, in that capacity, I worked with many members of SLOC. I finally became an "official member" when I co-produced the 70th Anniversary Show, *Me and My Girl* and *Sweeney Todd*. I am now enjoying serving on the Spotlight editorial staff and working at Schenectady VanCurler Music Store. If I am elected to the board, I hope to use my experience at Proctor's and my knowledge of our local music and art community to help maintain the already high performance standards and to attract newcomers to the group so that SLOC's 75 years of success goes on "ad infinitum".

Brett Putnam - Since joining SLOC in January of 1996, I have been captivated by the magic of this place. This is a place for amateur theatre lovers to come, have fun, learn, develop lasting friendships, and excel in their art. This is a place that routinely produces exceptional theatrical presentations. Over the past six years, I have been involved with nearly all of our productions, in which I have served in many technical departments and occasional on-stage cameos. I have produced two shows in the past two seasons and have served for four years as Vice-President of Technical Operations, where I have worked to develop a technical internship program, to improve our costume shop and to clean, inventory, and organize the Taurus Road scene shop. I have worked hard at organizing the technical equipment and supplies and purchasing important equipment necessary for both enhanced technical capabilities and improved safety. I have spearheaded the purchase and installation of a state-of-the-art audio system for SLOC. I have been very involved in the 75th Anniversary events this year, and I have taken a keen interest in the long-term financial stability and continuation of SLOC as a major cultural center in Schenectady. I would very much like to continue to serve on the Board of the Directors, and I pledge to focus my volunteer theatre efforts exclusively in the service of SLOC.

Michelle Sausa-Gatta has been associated with SLOC since 1980. She and her son, Richard have been active in almost every show in the past two years. Michelle has performed on stage in many productions and has more recently worked back stage doing stage managing, Co-producing, set painting, bartending, ushering and organizing cast get-togethers. Several years ago Michelle worked on the SLOC kitchen remodeling and would like to see more projects that would continue to spruce up the facility to make it more appealing to our patrons. Away from the opera house, Michelle Sausa-Gatta is an elementary vocal music teacher for Niskayuna Schools and enjoys directing the Hillside School Chorus and the student musicals. Michelle was pleased and proud to be able to perform in the recent SLOC production of *Camelot* with several of her own music students.

Ted Vickery - I have been a member of the company for over 10 years. During that time, I have served as the VP of Technical Operations, and as past and present VP of Facilities. This year, I have started repairs to the green room wall water damage, fixed the broken urinal in the men's room (I know all the guys are thanking me for that!) and have started to systematically replace the toilets in both men's and ladie's room. I have also produced several productions, and organized Taurus Road and Opera House Cleanup days. Being well versed in the facility operations and other technical area of SLOC, I feel that my input into those decisions will be a valuable asset to the composition of the Board.

Deb Wieskopf - I have been involved with SLOC for six years now. Shortly after my first show here, I knew that this was a place I wanted to spend more time. Over the past six years I have made many new friends and acquaintances. It wasn't until this past year however, that I learned so much about SLOC's history and background. This season, I was given the opportunity to co-chair the 75th anniversary committee. I was a little overwhelmed at first, after all, what could I, a fairly new member to the SLOC family, have to offer? I soon learned that everyone that is part of this organization has something to offer. Throughout the year our committee

Cont'd on page 4

Candidates for Election to the Board of Directors (Cont'd)

Deb Wieskopf (cont'd) planned several 75th anniversary events. For me the most treasured was calling and talking to a lot of the veterans of SLOC. They all have their own interesting stories to tell about shows, special events, behind the scenes happenings and general items of information about the organization. What I found the most fascinating was that all of them show a true pride for being part of this organization for so long. I'd like to say thank you to those of you who have stood by this company for all these years and made it what it is today. My hope is that I, along with all of the newer members of SLOC can uphold your pride, hard work, and determination, to take this organization into another successful 75 years of quality service to the community.

Bonnie Williams - I have been associated with SLOC since 1980. For years, SLOC has been "fun". I have appeared in 18 shows both at the opera house and at Proctor's. I served as rehearsal secretary and am always available to usher and help out as needed. Being on "the Board" always sounded like "work" and I never wanted to do it. But this past year, I worked on the 75th anniversary committee. It was a chance to do something different and get to know people better. I found that it was possible to have fun and work and be successful in the process. I have no idea what a board member does - but I am willing to learn, in order to help SLOC continue to do what it has done for 75 years: bring quality musical theater to the area.

A Toast to SLOC

Written by Bonnie Williams for the SLOC 75th Anniversary Gala

Tonight we toast The Schenectady Light Opera Company, which for 75 years has brought musical theatre to Schenectady and the Capital District. The word company is defined in many ways:



- An assemblage of persons either permanent or transient
 - A troupe of dramatic or musical performers
 - A business enterprise
 - The state of friendly companionship or fellowship.
 - A subdivision of a military regiment
 - A unit of firefighters
- Except for the last two, I think that is an apt description of SLOC.

Tonight we toast this assemblage of persons. Some of you are permanent fixtures in SLOC. Some people come and go and are never seen again. Tonight we celebrate all of you here tonight: members for 1 year or 50 years; people who have worked on 1 show or 101. Tonight we celebrate you.

Tonight we toast the troupe of dramatic or musical performers. Those talented people both on stage and back stage that keep the company going. You who continue to pursue this "odd hobby" called theater. This pastime so ephemeral, it's gone in a moment. The only tangible relic of a production is a photo, perhaps a recording, a prop or costume and those precious memories of people met along the way.



Tonight we toast a business enterprise. We thank those people who support us year after year. Those people who witness this "odd hobby" of ours. It's safe to say that SLOC wouldn't have been around for 75 years without our benefactors, subscribers and friends. Tonight we celebrate our audience.

Tonight we toast the state of companionship and fellowship. We remember those people who came before us. To some, they are only names or faces in a scrapbook. To others, they are real people. Dear people, who guided us here tonight. Some were mentors, teachers, loved ones and friends. They are gone, but are surely not forgotten. They continue to live in our memories and in our very existence. We owe them our gratitude. We also owe them a promise to continue to strive for excellence.

So let us raise our glasses in celebration. To the Company! To SLOC!